

Remarks

Upon entry of the foregoing amendment, claims 92-99, 101-104 and 106-154 are pending in this application. Claims 92, 101, 104, 107, 108, 112, and 113 have been amended. These amendments are being made to more particularly recite the invention, and not to overcome the Examiner's pending rejections and thus are not intended to limit the entitled scope of equivalents for these claims. Claims 120-154 have been added. No new matter has been introduced by the amendments. Thus, it is respectfully requested that the amendments be entered by the Examiner. The Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned representative if it is believed that an interview might be useful for any reason.

Respectfully submitted,

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Version with markings to show changes made

In the Claims:

Please amend the claims as follows:

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92. (Three Times Amended) An automated, real-time electronic inventory system, comprising:

- (A) a plurality of radio frequency identification (RFID) tags, wherein each tag is assigned a first permanent identification number and a second permanent identification number, wherein said RFID tags are configured to receive and transmit signals; and
- (B) a tag reader having means for transmitting a signal to said RFID tags and means for resolving contention between multiple RFID tags that respond to said signal;
- (C) wherein said RFID tags are configured to receive said signal from said reader, evaluate [said signal relative to] said first or second permanent identification numbers in response to receiving said signal, and reply to said signal if appropriate.

101. (Three Times Amended) An automated, real-time electronic inventory system, comprising:

- (A) a plurality of radio frequency identification (RFID) tags, wherein each tag is assigned a plurality of identification numbers, wherein said RFID tags are configured to receive and transmit signals; and
- (B) a tag reader having means for transmitting a signal to said RFID tags and means for resolving contention [resolution] between multiple RFID tags that respond to said signal;

(C) wherein said RFID tags are configured to receive [a] said signal from said tag reader, evaluate one or more of said plurality of identification numbers, and reply to said signal if appropriate.

104. (Twice Amended) An automated, real-time electronic inventory system, comprising a plurality of radio frequency identification (RFID) tags and a tag reader that performs multiple reads of said RFID tags to avoid time slot contention, wherein said tag is identified by a plurality of bits, wherein said tag responds to said tag reader with [uses] a first plurality of said plurality of bits during a first read and a second plurality of said plurality of bits during a second read.

107. (Twice Amended) A radio frequency identification tag, wherein each tag is assigned a first permanent identification number and a second permanent identification number, wherein the tag is interrogated by a tag reader having means for transmitting a first clock signal and for incrementing a first reader count in response to the first clock signal, means for storing the first reader count when more than one tag responds to the first clock signal that corresponds to the first reader count, and means for transmitting the stored first reader count followed by a second clock signal, the tag comprising:

means for incrementing a first tag count in response to the first clock signal, and means for transmitting the first permanent identification number assigned to the tag when the permanent identification number of the tag corresponds to said first tag count,

means for incrementing a second tag count in response to receiving the [at least one] second clock signal, and

means for transmitting the second permanent identification number assigned to the tag when the second permanent identification number of the tag corresponds to said second tag count.

108. (Twice Amended) A method for conducting an inventory of tags, wherein each tag is assigned a first permanent identification number and a second permanent identification number, the method comprising the steps of:

at a tag reader, transmitting a first clock signal, waiting for a reply from a plurality of the tags, and transmitting a first reader count followed by a second clock signal; and

at each tag,

incrementing a first tag count in response to said first clock signal and

transmitting the first permanent identification number assigned to said tag when the first permanent identification number of said tag corresponds to said first tag count;

at each tag that responds to said transmitted first reader count,

incrementing a second tag count in response to said second clock signal, and

transmitting the second permanent identification number assigned to said tag when the second permanent identification number of said tag corresponds to said second tag count.

112. (Twice Amended) The electronic inventory system of claim 92, wherein at least one of said plurality of RFID tags is [are] manufactured on a flexible substrate.

113. (Twice Amended) The electronic inventory system of claim 101, wherein at least one of said plurality of RFID tags is [are] manufactured on a flexible substrate.

Claims 120-154 have been added.